(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan is being pressurised by the Government of Punjab for cancelling the agreement signed in 1984 regarding share of Rajasthan in Power projects; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Government of Punjab have requested that the agreement reached on 10th May, 1984 between States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab regarding a reference to be made to Supreme Court to determine whether Haryana and Rajasthan have a share in power generated from certain hydro-electric projects in Punjab be examined afresh by Government of India. the Punjab Government has also sought the approval of Government of Rajasthan in this regard.

(b) Rajasthan Government have been requested to send their response to Punjab's request.

Loss of coal due to Theft and Pilferage

2921. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned from coal during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the mafia gang operating in the coal fields and grabbing the coal illegally;

(c) the estimated quantum of theft of coal; and

(d) the number of times price hikes of coal took place during the last decade?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited, their gross sales for last three years are as follows:-

1988-89 Rs. 5600.09 crores
1989-90 Rs. 6278.32 crores
1990-91 Rs. 6248.43 crores (Provisional)

(b) Government is not aware of any large scale illegal mining or pilferage of coal in coalfield areas. Any such cases, as and when detected are reported to local police authorities for taking action according to Law.

(c) No large scale theft or pilferage of coal has taken place in coalfield areas. Being a clandestine activity no estimates of quantum of theft can be made.

(d) During the decade 1981-90, coal prices have been revised 6(six) times.

[*Translation*]

Development of Tourist In Orissa

2922. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government for developing "Shanu Ghagra waterfall park" of district Keonjhar, Orissa into an important place of tourist interest; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pench Thermal Power Plant

2923. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the Pench Thermal Power Project of Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh is behind the Schedule; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Electricity Authority have informed that the construction of the Pench Thermal Power Station (2x210 MW) of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board is behind schedule on account of paucity of funds.

[*English*]

Coal despatches to Maharashtra and Gujarat

2924. SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Coal Shortage, Maharashtra, Gujarat involved in dispute" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated July 18, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Western Coalfields Limited, has suspended road despatches of coal to Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). No, Sir. In order to maintain movement of more coal by rail to high priority core sectors like Power, Cement, Steel, Railways, Fertilizers etc. despatches by road from Western Coalfields Ltd. had to be regulated. Details of despatches made to non-core sector industries in Maharashtra and Gujarat by WCL during the period April-June, 1991 are given below:—